

HONORING THE COLLINSVILLE,
ILLINOIS, LIONS CLUB

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of the Collinsville, Illinois, Lions Club over the past 85 years. When the Collinsville Lions Club was founded in 1923, it was the only service organization in Collinsville. In the 1920s and 1930s, Collinsville was transitioning from a mining district to a mixed commercial-residential area. The Lions Club helped ensure a smooth transition then, and for the past 85 years has been an important part of the Collinsville community.

Throughout the years, this service organization has aided students in Southern Illinois interested in healthcare by providing yearly scholarships. Additionally, the Lions Club has been active in assisting the blind and visually impaired. In the past, they have provided glasses, cataract surgery, and sight-assistance dogs. Most notably, the Lions Club outfitted a reading room in the Collinsville Public Library with reading and hearing equipment, as well as hearing aids and reading glasses.

I would like to congratulate and thank the Collinsville, Illinois, Lions Club for 85 years of successful service and wish them the best of luck in the future.

MEDICARE IMPROVEMENTS FOR
PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT
OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008. The 14th Congressional District of New York, which I represent, is home to 18 hospitals—perhaps more than any other district in the nation. Of course, along with hospitals come physicians who regularly report to me about the crisis of healthcare in this country. I am grateful that H.R. 6331 helps America's doctors while also significantly helping Medicare beneficiaries and hope that the other body will act swiftly on this much needed legislation.

H.R. 6331 eliminates the pending 10.6 percent cuts in the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) to physicians for the remainder of 2008 and provides a 1.1 percent update in payments for 2009. I have thousands of doctors in my district who tell me that the uncertainty of Medicare payments makes it increasingly difficult to plan for expenses. Unfortunately, we are seeing that for many doctors, the response to the uncertainty is to stop taking new patients, or even more dire, end their participation with the Medicare program. This is catastrophic for patient access and care. This bill is a positive first step toward eliminating that uncertainty and allowing time for Congress to develop reforms to the current system.

I am proud that this bill strengthens Medicare for those beneficiaries who are in great-

est need and ensures access to good quality care while remaining fiscally responsible. I thank Chairmen DINGELL and RANGEL for this important bill and urge my colleagues to support America's seniors by voting in favor of H.R. 6331.

CARIBBEAN LEADERS SHOW INITIATIVE IN PROPOSALS AT
CARICOM CONFERENCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD a New York Caribbean News article entitled: "Caribbean Countries Stress Investment Opportunities." The article recognizes Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana for their precisely drawn out proposals presented by their heads of government during the New York CARICOM Conference to the leaders of the New York financial community.

The New York CARICOM Conference held from the 19th through the 21st of June 2008 will continue to produce results because of the hard work that Caribbean leaders did in preparation for the meetings. Their proposals are a declaration of their willingness to follow through in this initiative to more clearly define the role of the small economies of the Caribbean in the world economy. I believe that their efforts are only the beginning in the aim to build mutually beneficial relationships between the U.S. and the Caribbean and a clear message that the Caribbean is ready to do whatever it takes to increase their potential for economic growth.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL TIMOTHY E.
HIGGENS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colonel Timothy E. Higgs of North Attleboro, Massachusetts on his retirement from military service on July 7, 2008 and to recognize his exemplary 35 years of service to his country. Over his career, Col. Higgs has distinguished himself through his exceptional service and leadership skills while successfully completing a range of assignments.

Col. Higgs was educated at the United States Military Academy at West Point in New York, where he received his B.S. in Engineering. He later went on to earn his M.A. in Counseling from Ball State University in Indiana. Throughout this military career, he has maintained his civilian occupation as a Quality Assurance Engineer.

Col. Higgs began his distinguished military career on June 1, 1973. He served for five years on active duty and then went on to serve the balance of his career in the Army Reserves. He has completed the United States Army Ranger School, the United States Army Airborne School and the United States Army Infantry School. Col. Higgs has held

numerous training, operations and command assignments, and his dedication and outstanding credentials culminated with his most recent assignment to an integral homeland security mission.

From July 2004 until July 2008, Col. Higgs served as the Chief Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer for New England. In this position, he was the primary leader among a team of senior officers from the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard representing the six New England states. Over the last four years, Col. Higgs led the team's deployment in multiple exercises and real life events. The skillful leadership and the many contributions made by Col. Higgs have undoubtedly strengthened homeland defense.

Throughout his military career, Col. Higgs has been supported by his loving wife, Evelyn, and his two sons, Ryan and Eric. Now, as he begins his retirement from military service, he plans to spend more time enjoying his favorite hobby of mountain biking.

Madam Speaker, in this time of international conflict, we must take the time to recognize the courageous sacrifices and innumerable contributions of men and women like Col. Higgs who have dedicated their lives to serving our country. Their commitment reflects the best examples of love of country and we are infinitely grateful for all they do. I humbly ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Col. Timothy E. Higgs on his retirement from military service.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STEPHEN DARIUS
AND STANLEY GIRENAS TRANS-ATLANTIC FLIGHT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two aviation pioneers, Stephen Darius and Stanley Girenas, on the 75th Anniversary of their historic trans-Atlantic flight that began at Municipal Airport—since renamed Midway Airport—which is located in Illinois' Third Congressional District on Chicago's Southwest Side.

Inspired by witnessing Charles A. Lindbergh's historic flight from New York to Paris, Stephen Darius returned home to Chicago after serving his country in World War I determined to fly non-stop across the Atlantic. In Chicago he met Stanley Girenas, a former Army airplane mechanic. Sharing a common Lithuanian heritage and military background, Darius proposed a first ever non-stop flight from New York to Kaunas, Lithuania. Girenas liked the idea and agreed to be Darius' copilot.

Securing adequate funding for their flight was especially difficult during the Great Depression. The two men pooled their savings and purchased a used six passenger airplane that required extensive repairs and modifications. Representatives of Chicago's Lithuanian community came to the aid of Darius and Girenas and formed a Flight Sponsors Committee in order to raise the necessary funds. The Committee raised approximately \$4,200